

CLAIMS

1. A file, particularly a nail file, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is made of glass and is roughened on at least part of its surface (2), with a roughness varying from 10 to 100 μm .
2. A file according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file has an oblong board shape and at least at one of its ends a point (5).
3. A file according to claims 1 or 2, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is roughened at least along the whole of one side, while the point (5) at the end is V-shaped.
4. A file according to claims 1 or 2, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is roughened at least along the whole of one side and is bevelled to a sharp finish on at least one edge (3).
5. A file according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that both edges (3) and at least one end of the body (1) of the file are bevelled, while the bevelled edge at the end is at an oblique angle to the side edge, so that together they form a point.
6. A file according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that the surface of at least one of the edges (3) and of one end of the body (1) of the file is also roughened.
7. A file according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that the edges (3) are rounded.
8. A file according to any of the above claims 1 to 7, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is made of flat glass.
9. A file according to any of the above claims 1 to 7, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is made of pressed glass.
10. A file according to any of the above claims 1 to 9, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is made from hardened glass.

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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 10 December 1998 (10.12.98);
original claim 1 amended; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

- Sub B7*
c1
- Sub B7*
- Sub B7*
a
- according to claims 1 or 2*
- according to claim 1*
- Sub B3*
- according claim 1*
- according to claim 1*
- according to claim 1*
1. A file, particularly a nail file, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file, including its surface (2), is formed of a single, integral stratum made of glass, where the abrading surface is situated on at least part of the surface (2), with a roughness varying from 10 to 100 μm
 2. A file according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file has an oblong board shape and at least at one of its ends a point (5).
 3. A file according to claims 1 or 2, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is roughened at least along the whole of one side, while the point (5) at the end is V-shaped.
 4. A file according to claims 1 or 2, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is roughened at least along the whole of one side and is bevelled to a sharp finish on at least one edge (3).
 5. A file according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that both edges (3) and at least one end of the body (1) of the file are bevelled, while the bevelled edge at the end is at an oblique angle to the side edge, so that together they form a point.
 6. A file according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that the surface of at least one of the edges (3) and of one end of the body (1) of the file is also roughened.
 7. A file according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that the edges (3) are rounded.
 8. A file according to any of the above claims 1 to 7, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is made of flat glass.
 9. A file according to any of the above claims 1 to 7, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is made of pressed glass.
 10. A file according to any of the above claims 1 to 10, characterized by the fact that the body (1) of the file is made from hardened glass.

Statement under article 19 (1)

The amendment to Claim 1 reflects the principal innovative feature of the file described in International application No. PCT/CZ 98/00030, i.e. the fact that the working surface is directly formed from the same material and is an integral part of the body of the file. This feature distinguishes it from the other technical solutions cited and constitutes an inventive step qualifying the device for patent protection.

By contrast to this simple integral structure as indicated in amended Claim 1, the nail file described in US Patent No. 5,361,786 has a multi-bead glass surface attached to a substrate formed, for example, from silicone polymer. Likewise, the subject of Canadian Patent No. 2,142,949 consists of a substrate of fibreglass material with diamond particles electroplated to the top surface thereof. US Patent No. 2,699,791 involves a device formed from coated abrasive sheets bonded to thin strips of sheet metal or wood. Compared to the structural complexity of these other inventions, the technological simplicity of the invention described in Application No. PCT/CZ 98/00030 results in reduced production costs. Further important characteristics resulting from this integral structure are the good functional features and the fact that the file is absolutely resistant to the environment in which it is used.

Reference will be made to the amended claims, in a revised version of the description, by insertion of the appropriate wording in the first paragraph of the Summary of the invention, on page 1 of the Application.

The structure of the file in question is not obvious to a person skilled in the art, and consequently involves an inventive step. In our opinion, the file according to International application No. PCT/CZ 98/00030 is simpler and therefore cheaper to produce than the current multi-layer nail files. Its present absence from the market is a further indication that the structure of the file is not obvious